Quarterly Population Highlights

BC STATS

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B.C. Highlights

The population of B.C. was estimated at 4,707,021 as of January 1, 2016, growing by 3,082 persons in the fourth quarter of 2015 (up 0.07% from October 1, 2015). Combined net in-migration from all sources (inter-provincial and international) produced a net gain of 1,400 during the fourth quarter of 2015. Broken down, net interprovincial in-migration totalled 3,762 persons in the last quarter. However, international net in-migration totalling –2,362 offset this gain and was mainly driven by a decrease (–8,157) in the number of non-permanent residents (NPRs). Finally, a natural increase (births minus deaths) of 1,682 had a positive impact on population growth in the fourth quarter.

B.C. population October 1, 2015		**4,703,939**
Interprovincial migration		+ 3,762
Add interprovincial arrivals	+ 10,910	
Minus interprovincial exits	– 7,148	
International migration		– 2,362
Add immigrants	+ 9,239	
Minus total net emigrants	– 3,444	
Net change in non-permanent residents	– 8,157	
Natural change		+ 1,682
Add births	+ 10,713	
Minus deaths	– 9,031	
Net Change		+ 3,082
B.C. population January 1, 2016		**4,707,021**

The Last Twelve Months

B.C.'s total population grew by 40,575 persons (+0.87%) over the twelve months ending December 31, 2015, largely due to international and interprovincial migration. On an annual basis, births (+44,159) and immigrants (+35,715) were the largest sources of population growth for the province. Interprovincial migration accounted for a net gain of 16,742 persons from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. Consequently, more than three in every four persons added since January 1, 2015 (+31,418) could be attributed to net migration from all sources. The remainder was due to natural increase (+9,157).

National Overview

The population of Canada grew by 62,770 persons (+0.17%) to 36,048,521 during the fourth quarter of 2015. Leading the growth at the provincial and territorial level were Manitoba (+0.41%), Nunavut (+0.40%), Alberta (+0.36%) and Saskatchewan (+0.32%). Prince Edward Island (+0.17%), Ontario (+0.17%), and Quebec (+0.12%) also saw population increases. Yukon was the only jurisdiction with a population decline (–0.25%).

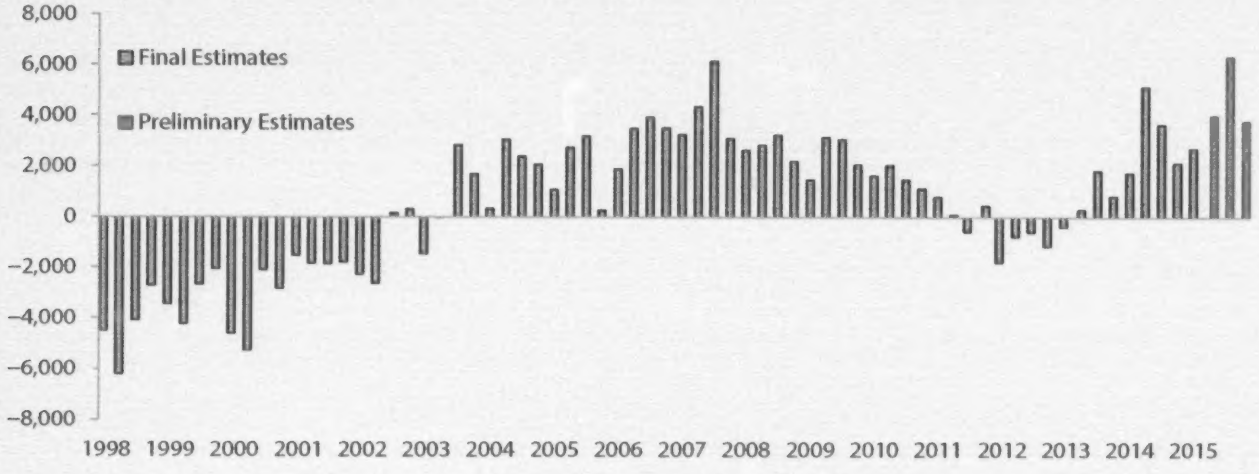
Fourth Quarter International Migration

Net international in-migration to British Columbia (immigrants plus the net change in NPRs plus returning emigrants less emigrants and persons temporarily abroad) registered a net loss of 2,362 in the fourth quarter. This is a slightly larger net outflow when compared to the net loss of 1,808 reported for the fourth quarter of 2014. While the total number of immigrants arriving in British Columbia from October 1 to December 31 (+9,239) was higher than the same three months in 2014 (+7,687), the relatively large net loss in NPRs in the fourth quarter (–8,157) compares with a smaller net loss (–6,051) for the same quarter in 2014 and thus drove the increase in net outflow. As for persons leaving B.C. for international destinations, an estimated 2,917 left on a permanent basis and 1,343 were away temporarily in the fourth quarter of 2015, relatively unchanged from the same period in 2014.

Fourth Quarter Interprovincial Migration:

Of the three provinces and territories that reported a net gain in population from other Canadian jurisdictions in the fourth quarter of 2015, British Columbia showed the highest net gain. In B.C. an inflow of 10,910 persons was offset by an outflow of 7,148 for a net population gain of 3,762. British Columbia's net exchange with Alberta was positive, with an estimated 1,640 more persons leaving Alberta for B.C. than those going to Alberta from British Columbia. In addition, B.C. reported positive net in-migration from Ontario (+915) as well as positive gains from most other jurisdictions. Ontario was the second biggest net recipient in the fourth quarter of 2015 with a net gain of 951 interprovincial migrants. Nova Scotia was the only other jurisdictions to post a net gain.

B.C. Net Interprovincial Migration by Quarter, Q1 1998 to Q4 2015



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 051-0017 Interprovincial migrants, Canada, provinces and territories. CANSIM. Last updated March 16, 2016.

Click here for more information about British Columbia demography.

Did You Know?

Canada will see a dramatic boost in the number of refugees it plans to resettle this year to 55,800, up from a target of 24,800 in 2015. The majority of new refugees will be Syrian, in accordance with the government's commitment to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees by the end of February, and thousands more throughout the year. It also plans to triple the number of privately sponsored refugees to 18,000 in 2016.

Source: The Globe and Mail, March 8, 2016

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Table 1: Provincial migration flow (Oct - Dec, 2015)

Origin \ Destination	Nfld	PEI	NS	NB	Que	Ont	Man	Sask	Alta	BC	Yukon	NWT	Nvt
Nfld	—	7	209	70	42	298	6	39	386	72	—	5	19
PEI	10	—	90	20	11	199	5	25	143	143	—	—	—
NS	164	57	—	433	87	780	71	17	565	205	—	25	—
NB	55	53	431	—	222	458	41	25	404	189	5	19	—
Que	26	19	138	220	—	3,180	79	23	935	672	16	—	65
Ont	310	202	762	443	1,836	—	684	551	2,843	2,916	31	42	77
Man	20	9	34	11	60	768	—	454	735	774	—	5	10
Sask	12	—	50	35	97	575	216	—	1,699	793	17	15	—
Alta	396	87	599	438	539	3,170	540	1,373	—	4,954	40	111	—
BC	126	36	216	126	338	2,001	347	522	3,314	—	16	86	20
Yukon	—	—	11	20	6	63	—	—	30	129	—	13	—
NWT	—	—	25	25	11	60	6	52	202	47	23	—	—
Nvt	6	—	26	—	34	96	3	—	14	16	9	25	—
Inflow	1,125	470	2,591	1,841	3,283	11,648	1,998	3,081	11,270	10,910	157	346	191
Outflow	1,153	646	2,404	1,902	5,373	10,697	2,880	3,509	12,247	7,148	272	451	229
Net interprovincial	- 28	- 176	187	- 61	- 2,090	951	- 882	- 428	- 977	3,762	- 115	- 105	- 38
Net international										- 2,362			
Total net										1,400			

Prepared by: Demographic Analysis, BC Stats
Date: March 2016

Data source: Statistics Canada

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Table 2: Quarterly components of population change in British Columbia

		Interprovincial			International												
Year	Quarter	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Emigrants	Net NPR	Temporary abroad	Returning emigrants	Net	Total net migration	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Total increase	Population at end of quarter	Annual growth rate (%)
1996	1	12,402	8,785	3,617	12,197	856	1,777	632	503	12,989	16,606	11,550	7,210	4,340	20,946	3,849,847	2.6
1996	2	17,376	11,771	5,605	12,966	1,207	567	728	987	12,585	18,190	11,927	6,783	5,144	23,334	3,874,317	2.6
1996	3	20,735	14,894	5,841	14,724	2,610	1,787	1,849	1,349	13,401	19,242	11,783	6,305	5,478	24,720	3,899,256	2.5
1996	4	12,215	9,480	2,735	12,138	1,603	- 941	1,429	477	8,642	11,377	10,878	7,240	3,638	15,015	3,914,490	2.3
	Total	62,728	44,930	17,798	52,025	6,276	3,190	4,638	3,316	47,617	65,415	46,138	27,538	18,600	84,015		
1997	1	11,521	11,031	490	13,329	1,269	1,138	1,289	470	12,379	12,869	10,898	7,415	3,483	16,352	3,931,056	2.1
1997	2	14,961	14,147	814	13,044	1,775	832	1,501	780	11,380	12,194	11,755	6,639	5,116	17,310	3,948,583	1.9
1997	3	18,855	17,771	1,084	12,782	3,193	1,055	1,941	1,080	9,783	10,867	11,421	6,413	5,008	15,875	3,964,677	1.7
1997	4	8,692	9,100	- 408	8,693	1,882	- 1,108	1,455	528	4,776	4,368	10,503	6,945	3,558	7,926	3,972,821	1.5
	Total	54,029	52,049	1,980	47,848	8,119	1,917	6,186	2,858	38,318	40,298	44,577	27,412	17,165	57,463		
1998	1	10,657	15,162	- 4,505	9,149	1,355	- 503	1,260	515	6,546	2,041	10,608	7,773	2,835	4,876	3,977,912	1.2
1998	2	13,320	19,520	- 6,200	9,832	1,760	- 718	1,411	934	6,877	677	11,055	6,747	4,308	4,985	3,983,113	0.9
1998	3	13,872	17,961	- 4,089	9,615	3,486	1,421	2,011	1,117	6,656	2,567	11,094	6,542	4,552	7,119	3,990,451	0.7
1998	4	8,639	11,366	- 2,727	7,394	1,816	- 311	1,411	445	4,301	1,574	10,315	6,916	3,399	4,973	3,995,643	0.6
	Total	46,488	64,009	- 17,521	35,990	8,417	- 111	6,093	3,011	24,380	6,859	43,072	27,978	15,094	21,953		
1999	1	8,515	11,951	- 3,436	8,180	1,296	1,032	1,224	555	7,247	3,811	10,243	7,478	2,765	6,576	4,002,433	0.6
1999	2	12,274	16,506	- 4,232	9,085	1,850	2,043	1,423	996	8,851	4,619	10,935	6,829	4,106	8,725	4,011,375	0.7
1999	3	14,999	17,681	- 2,682	10,175	3,709	2,944	1,946	971	8,435	5,753	10,782	6,528	4,254	10,007	4,021,600	0.8
1999	4	7,781	9,844	- 2,063	8,666	2,133	- 1,431	1,441	450	4,111	2,048	9,979	7,182	2,797	4,845	4,026,664	0.8
	Total	43,569	55,982	- 12,413	36,106	8,988	4,588	6,034	2,972	28,644	16,231	41,939	28,017	13,922	30,153		
2000	1	9,272	13,871	- 4,599	8,610	1,546	1,950	1,253	396	8,157	3,558	10,162	7,282	2,880	6,438	4,033,319	0.8
2000	2	11,413	16,679	- 5,266	9,495	2,092	260	1,428	732	6,967	1,701	10,682	6,688	3,994	5,695	4,039,230	0.7
2000	3	15,001	17,096	- 2,095	10,316	3,517	2,320	2,002	956	8,073	5,978	10,378	6,508	3,870	9,848	4,049,297	0.7
2000	4	8,323	11,146	- 2,823	8,992	1,939	75	1,444	385	6,069	3,246	9,450	6,983	2,467	5,713	4,055,229	0.7
	Total	44,009	58,792	- 14,783	37,413	9,094	4,605	6,127	2,469	29,266	14,483	40,672	27,461	13,211	27,694		
2001	1	8,597	10,134	- 1,537	9,428	1,375	2,402	1,244	385	9,596	8,059	9,941	7,311	2,630	10,689	4,066,132	0.8
2001	2	11,417	13,248	- 1,831	10,807	1,748	2,113	1,376	742	10,538	8,707	10,598	7,013	3,585	12,292	4,076,881	0.9
2001	3	16,029	17,902	- 1,873	10,529	5,031	4,922	1,512	1,421	10,329	8,456	10,444	6,794	3,650	12,106	4,085,760	0.9
2001	4	8,365	10,152	- 1,787	7,720	3,261	239	1,057	699	4,340	2,553	9,592	7,244	2,348	4,901	4,087,435	0.8
	Total	44,408	51,436	- 7,028	38,484	11,415	9,676	5,189	3,247	34,803	27,775	40,575	28,362	12,213	39,988		
2002	1	9,244	11,516	- 2,272	9,573	1,530	2,703	1,006	617	10,357	8,085	9,605	7,672	1,933	10,018	4,094,296	0.7
2002	2	13,521	16,145	- 2,624	10,202	1,943	297	1,364	1,186	8,378	5,754	10,291	6,989	3,302	9,056	4,100,161	0.6
2002	3	16,089	15,936	153	7,992	4,615	3,746	1,497	1,747	7,373	7,526	10,470	6,854	3,616	11,142	4,108,076	0.5
2002	4	8,925	8,627	298	6,290	3,110	- 409	1,022	805	2,554	2,852	9,699	7,369	2,330	5,182	4,110,032	0.6
	Total	47,779	52,224	- 4,445	34,057	11,198	6,337	4,889	4,355	28,662	24,217	40,065	28,884	11,181	35,398		
2003	1	8,685	10,145	- 1,460	7,954	2,407	1,582	1,086	931	6,974	5,514	9,813	7,546	2,267	7,781	4,114,657	0.5
2003	2	14,379	14,407	- 28	9,688	2,315	1,407	1,337	1,430	8,873	8,845	10,552	6,925	3,627	12,472	4,123,937	0.6
2003	3	15,923	13,093	2,830	9,459	4,099	1,374	1,558	1,828	7,004	9,834	10,395	6,972	3,423	13,257	4,133,968	0.6
2003	4	9,295	7,612	1,683	8,132	3,433	657	1,028	797	5,125	6,808	9,737	7,877	1,860	8,668	4,139,409	0.7
	Total	48,282	45,257	3,025	35,233	12,254	5,020	5,009	4,986	27,976	31,001	40,497	29,320	11,177	42,178		
2004	1	9,984	9,674	310	8,966	2,746	1,098	1,010	762	7,070	7,380	9,740	7,840	1,900	9,280	4,145,498	0.7
2004	2	15,204	12,162	3,042	10,155	3,204	- 509	1,345	1,412	6,509	9,551	10,334	7,174	3,160	12,711	4,155,017	0.8
2004	3	15,109	12,731	2,378	10,362	3,909	2,830	1,544	2,148	9,887	12,265	10,394	7,223	3,171	15,436	4,167,227	0.8
2004	4	10,760	8,705	2,055	7,543	2,969	754	1,039	979	5,268	7,323	10,022	7,687	2,335	9,658	4,173,658	0.8
	Total	51,057	43,272	7,785	37,026	12,828	4,173	4,938	5,301	28,734	36,519	40,490	29,924	10,566	47,085		
2005	1	11,239	10,184	1,055	10,505	2,398	1,537	1,017	928	9,555	10,610	9,761	8,118	1,643	12,253	4,182,755	0.9
2005	2	17,172	14,446	2 726	12,167	2,758	582	1,338	1,671	10,324	13,050	10,455	7,305	3,150	16,200	4,195,764	1.0
2005	3	16,631	13,459	3, ?	12,450	3,454	2,969	1,576	2,574	12,963	16,135	10,745	7,111	3,634	19,769	4,212,306	1.1
2005	4	8,948	8,689	259	9,653	2,899	- 483	1,006	1,045	6,310	6,569	9,866	7,701	2,165	8,734	4,217,814	1.1
	Total	53,990	46,778	7,212	44,775	11,509	4,605	4,937	6,218	39,152	46,364	40,827	30,235	10,592	56,956		

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Table 2: Quarterly components of population change in British Columbia

		Interprovincial			International												
Year	Quarter	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Emigrants	Net NPR	Temporary abroad	Returning emigrants	Net	Total net migration	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Total increase	Population at end of quarter	Annual growth rate (%)
2006	1	12,294	10,411	1,883	10,270	2,401	1,734	1,025	1,091	9,669	11,552	9,858	8,054	1,804	13,356	4,228,013	1.1
2006	2	15,223	11,737	3,486	11,473	2,769	639	1,334	1,922	9,931	13,417	10,723	7,445	3,278	16,695	4,241,691	1.1
2006	3	19,163	15,244	3,919	11,021	3,648	3,552	2,094	2,965	11,796	15,715	10,951	7,263	3,688	19,403	4,258,216	1.1
2006	4	12,150	8,639	3,511	9,321	3,102	- 1,913	1,112	847	4,041	7,552	10,197	7,926	2,271	9,823	4,265,161	1.1
	Total	58,830	46,031	12,799	42,085	11,920	4,012	5,565	6,825	35,437	48,236	41,729	30,688	11,041	59,277		
2007	1	11,705	8,467	3,238	7,972	2,734	4,274	1,126	876	9,262	12,500	10,108	8,177	1,931	14,431	4,276,777	1.2
2007	2	15,164	10,827	4,337	9,497	2,836	2,425	1,430	1,533	9,189	13,526	11,123	7,591	3,532	17,058	4,290,988	1.2
2007	3	19,576	13,449	6,127	12,208	3,525	4,751	1,802	2,165	13,797	19,924	11,577	7,563	4,014	23,938	4,312,048	1.3
2007	4	10,587	7,513	3,074	9,293	2,895	- 1,467	1,204	969	4,696	7,770	10,841	7,977	2,864	10,634	4,319,805	1.3
	Total	57,032	40,256	16,776	38,970	11,990	9,983	5,562	5,543	36,944	53,720	43,649	31,308	12,341	66,061		
2008	1	11,851	9,224	2,627	10,127	2,353	2,919	1,197	955	10,451	13,078	10,486	8,574	1,912	14,990	4,331,948	1.3
2008	2	15,382	12,567	2,815	11,592	2,517	4,926	1,558	1,678	14,121	16,936	11,238	7,863	3,375	20,311	4,349,412	1.4
2008	3	16,951	13,739	3,212	12,714	3,293	7,670	1,799	2,038	17,330	20,542	11,738	7,565	4,173	24,715	4,371,250	1.4
2008	4	9,479	7,284	2,195	9,569	2,673	2,305	1,194	896	8,903	11,098	10,814	8,095	2,719	13,817	4,382,189	1.4
	Total	53,663	42,814	10,849	44,002	10,836	17,820	5,748	5,567	50,805	61,654	44,276	32,097	12,179	73,833		
2009	1	11,143	9,672	1,471	9,244	2,275	5,643	1,224	952	12,340	13,811	10,710	8,256	2,454	16,265	4,395,638	1.5
2009	2	13,488	10,371	3,117	10,848	2,094	2,093	1,547	1,562	10,862	13,979	11,428	7,520	3,908	17,887	4,410,679	1.4
2009	3	14,579	11,543	3,036	12,116	2,989	7,119	1,754	2,109	16,601	19,637	11,937	7,674	4,263	23,900	4,431,701	1.4
2009	4	8,899	6,851	2,048	9,231	2,647	1,477	1,217	1,014	7,858	9,906	10,918	7,990	2,928	12,834	4,441,657	1.4
	Total	48,109	38,437	9,672	41,439	10,005	16,332	5,742	5,637	47,661	57,333	44,993	31,440	13,553	70,886		
2010	1	11,474	9,861	1,613	9,629	2,488	4,202	1,199	977	11,121	12,734	10,568	7,896	2,672	15,406	4,454,248	1.3
2010	2	14,517	12,486	2,031	12,895	2,431	- 1,535	1,592	1,776	9,113	11,144	11,218	7,839	3,379	14,523	4,465,924	1.3
2010	3	14,420	12,957	1,463	13,508	3,615	5,225	1,791	1,916	15,243	16,706	11,386	7,461	3,925	20,631	4,483,677	1.2
2010	4	9,639	8,534	1,105	8,153	2,682	- 7,222	1,198	857	- 2,092	- 987	10,654	8,128	2,526	1,539	4,482,338	0.9
	Total	50,050	43,838	6,212	44,185	11,216	670	5,780	5,526	33,385	39,597	43,826	31,324	12,502	52,099		
2011	1	10,899	10,119	780	7,614	2,499	1,316	1,190	841	6,082	6,862	10,531	8,273	2,258	9,120	4,488,643	0.8
2011	2	12,896	12,823	73	9,671	2,524	1,033	1,584	1,548	8,144	8,217	11,337	7,838	3,499	11,716	4,499,139	0.7
2011	3	15,465	16,041	- 576	9,882	3,706	8,666	1,703	2,033	15,172	14,596	11,779	7,497	4,282	18,878	4,518,017	0.8
2011	4	9,757	9,323	434	7,619	3,248	- 2,270	1,383	884	1,602	2,036	10,482	8,356	2,126	4,162	4,522,179	0.9
	Total	49,017	48,306	711	34,786	11,977	8,745	5,860	5,306	31,000	31,711	44,129	31,964	12,165	43,876		
2012	1	10,753	12,542	- 1,789	8,658	2,853	1,869	1,338	875	7,211	5,422	10,402	8,337	2,065	7,487	4,529,666	0.9
2012	2	15,695	16,475	- 780	10,087	2,619	2,839	1,338	1,595	10,564	9,784	11,111	7,983	3,128	12,912	4,542,578	1.0
2012	3	14,439	15,034	- 595	9,029	3,621	8,970	1,671	2,152	14,859	14,264	11,548	7,636	3,912	18,176	4,560,754	0.9
2012	4	7,404	8,562	- 1,158	8,468	2,865	- 5,598	1,344	816	- 523	- 1,681	10,966	8,406	2,560	879	4,561,633	0.9
	Total	48,291	52,613	- 4,322	36,242	11,958	8,080	5,691	5,438	32,111	27,789	44,027	32,362	11,665	39,454		
2013	1	9,975	10,358	- 383	8,105	3,295	2,445	1,375	774	6,654	6,271	10,646	8,647	1,999	8,270	4,569,903	0.9
2013	2	16,690	16,422	268	10,134	2,733	2,014	1,373	1,489	9,531	9,799	10,993	8,088	2,905	12,704	4,582,607	0.9
2013	3	14,145	12,323	1,822	8,928	3,660	11,746	1,671	2,152	17,495	19,317	11,534	7,729	3,805	23,122	4,605,729	1.0
2013	4	9,362	8,555	807	9,045	2,898	- 4,881	1,343	816	739	1,546	10,533	8,592	1,941	3,487	4,609,216	1.0
	Total	50,172	47,658	2,514	36,212	12,586	11,324	5,762	5,231	34,419	36,933	43,706	33,056	10,650	47,583		
2014	1	12,352	10,629	1,723	9,562	3,336	2,534	1,376	774	8,158	9,881	10,583	8,654	1,929	11,810	4,621,026	1.1
2014	2	21,302	16,179	5,123	9,936	2,766	1,859	1,373	1,489	9,145	14,268	11,131	8,010	3,121	17,389	4,638,415	1.2
2014	3	15,119	11,487	3,632	7,989	3,682	13,703	1,670	2,152	18,492	22,124	11,678	7,995	3,683	25,807	4,664,222	1.3
2014	4	9,900	7,784	2,116	7,687	2,917	- 6,051	1,343	816	- 1,808	308	10,874	8,958	1,916	2,224	4,666,446	1.2
	Total	58,673	46,079	12,594	35,174	12,701	12,045	5,762	5,231	33,987	46,581	44,266	33,617	10,649	57,230		
2015	1	13,770	11,079	2,691	6,772	3,359	- 976	1,376	774	1,835	4,526	10,584	9,082	1,502	6,028	4,672,474	1.1
2015	2	21,276	17,302	3,974	9,053	2,785	- 2,282	1,373	1,489	4,102	8,076	11,187	8,598	2,589	10,665	4,683,139	1.0
2015	3	18,821	12,506	6,315	10,651	3,682	3,650	1,670	2,152	11,101	17,416	11,675	8,291	3,384	20,800	4,703,939	0.9
2015	4	10,910	7,148	3,762	9,239	2,917	- 8,157	1,343	816	- 2,362	1,400	10,713	9,031	1,682	3,082	4,707,021	0.9
	Total	64,777	48,035	16,742	35,715	12,743	- 7,765	5,762	5,231	14,676	31,418	44,159	35,002	9,157	40,575		

Prepared by: Demographic Analysis, BC Stats
Date: March 2016

Data source: Statistics Canada

Note: Net NPR denotes the net change in Non-Permanent Residents.
Due to revisions on the part of Statistics Canada, the sum of the components may not equal the population change.
"-" indicates no data available. All figures subject to revision.